

From: Cmurf40@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:35pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I have the following concerns about the proposed Microsoft settlement.

1. It does not alter the overwhelming presence of Microsoft in the computer industry. For instance, even though a recent PCmagazine article rated the corel suite of office software as at least equal to the best they ever tested, they had a subtle warning at the end of the article warning about "compatibility". What they meant, but dared not openly say is that Microsoft proprietary file formats have become the defacto standard and no one can afford to ignore that, and it no longer matters how good the competition is. The market forces we rely on to provide for the best available products are not working. This marketplace is broken. The proposed settlement does not change the marketplace, therefore the government's settlement fails to provide the relief intended by congress.

2. The ownership of the only commercially viable OS gives the owner of that franchise a terribly strong base from which to win in any application software market that they choose to enter, whether it be office suites, browsers, compression software or whatever. They can purposely build in obstacles that prevent the operation of competing software while smoothing the interaction of their own appliations with their O/S. The proposed remedy does not alter that fact, a handful of "umpires" cannot watch thousands of players. The government has no mechanism in place that enforces this agreement, and it should recognize that this agreement is unenforceable and therefore worthless.

Yours,
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